

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 465 - SB 589

March 30, 2021

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to use a hair follicle test when testing a child for the presence of a controlled substance.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$314,200/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006244): Deletes and rewrites all language after the enacting clause to clarify that DCS may still use any other drug testing method in addition to the hair follicle test.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$676,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by DCS, the proposed legislation would require the Department to conduct an estimated additional 450 hair follicle tests per month.
- The average cost of a hair follicle test is \$125.18.
- The annual cost for an additional 450 hair follicle tests per month is thus estimated to be \$675,972 (450 x \$125.18 x 12 months).
- According to DCS, standard urine tests and hair follicle tests are suited to different purposes because of the types of information they provide, and are thus used selectively by the Department in different circumstances. As such, the Department expects to continue the use of standard urine tests. It is assumed it will do so at the current levels. Therefore, there are no estimated offsetting savings in the form of a reduced number of urine tests.
- The total increase in state expenditures to DCS is estimated to be \$675,972 in FY21-22 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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